

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122358
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FT, US

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS RE AMBASSADOR
YOUNG AND ETHIOPIA

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM THURSDAY, MAY 27 STATE DEPT. PRESS
BRIEFING. QUOTE;

QUESTION - PART OF THIS IS HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT YET
ADAPTED ITSELF TO THE ANDY YOUNG CUBAN ETHIOPIAN
EXPEDITION ACCEPTANCE?

ANSWER - ANDY MADE A NUMBER OF REMARKS ABOUT THE CUBAN
PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY THERE IS A
BASIC DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN WHAT HE SAID AND WHAT IS SAID
YESTERDAY. AS THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THIS MORNING ON THE
"TODAY" SHOW, IT'S HARD TO DISAGREE WITH A THESIS THAT IF
THE CUBANS WERE SOMEHOW TO PREVENT A GREATER BLOODSHED
IN ETHIOPIA THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, I WANT TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 122358

ADD, AS THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID AND AS THE PRESIDENT SAID
AS RECENTLY AS HIS SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME, THAT THE PRESENCE
OF OUTSIDE FORCES IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE INTERESTS
OF AFRICA BY THE UNITED STATES.

WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, IN ANY CASE, WAS THAT THE PROSPEC-
TIVE, SPECULATED ABOUT, ARRIVAL OF A LARGE NUMBER OF

CUBAN TROOPS WOULD BE REGARDED AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.

QUESTION - WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A LARGE NUMBER?

ANSWER - WELL, YESTERDAY WE WERE TALKING IN THE CONTEXT OF FOUR OR FIVE HUNDRED. I THINK ANDY WAS ENGAGING IN A PHILOSOPHICAL EXERCISE AS OPPOSED TO A POLICY STATEMENT.

QUESTION - IDON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN SAY THERE IS NO BASIS OF DISAGREEMENT WHEN THE AMBASSADOR LOOKED ALMOST WITH FAVOR UPON THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA AS A RATIONAL FORCE; AND YOU ARE NOW SAYING, AS YOU HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THAT OUTSIDE FORCES -- I SUPPOSE INCLUDING THE CUBANS -- ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE INTERESTS OF AFRICA, BY THE UNITED STATES.

ANSWER - WHAT HE SAID WAS, I GUESS, "I THINK MAYBE THE CUBANS MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE RATIONAL THAN THE ETHIOPIANS." THAT'S A QUOTATION. "IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THEY ADVISE." SPEAKING OF ADVISERS. "IF CUBAN ADVISERS CAN STOP THE KILLING IT MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD THING. IF CUBAN ADVISERS ESCALATE THE KILLING IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE."

THAT'S HIS STATEMENT OF GENERAL BELIEF. THE POLICY WHICH IS ENUNCIATED REMAINS WHAT THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAD STATED INSOFAR AS THAT PRESENCE WAS CONCERNED.

QUESTION - THEY COULD STOP KILLING ALL OVER AFRICA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 122358

COULDN'T THEY? I MEAN WOULD HE APPROVE OF CUBAN TROOPS ALL OVER AFRICA WHERE THEY ARE KILLING?

ANSWER - I THINK YOU HAVE TO ASK THE AMBASSADOR THAT. HE ARRIVES THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:15 P.M.

QUESTION - WILL HE HAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE?

ANSWER - I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE WILLING TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS OF THE PRESS.

QUESTION - IS IT YOUR FEELING THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN --

ANSWER - NO, I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I SAID THAT OUR POLICY HAS BEEN STATED AND RESTATED AS RECENTLY AS THIS MORNING, I BELIEVE, BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND AS RECENTLY AS SUNDAY BY THE PRESIDENT.

QUESTION - AND YOUNG'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE CUBANS

ANSWER - I BELIEVE THE AMBASSADOR WAS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION WHICH IN FACT SORT OF WENT TO HIS PHILOSOPHY ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, WHICH IS THAT ANYTHING THAT COULD STOP A LOT OF KILLING WOULD BE A GOOD THING; ANYTHING THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE KILLING WOULD BE A BAD THING.

QUESTION - DO YOU SHARE THAT?

ANSWER - WHAT I SHARE IS THE VIEWPOINT ENUNCIATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, WHICH I AM RESTATING FOR THE RECORD.

QUESTION - YOU SAY THERE IS NO BASIC DISAGREEMENT. BUT IS THERE A DISAGREEMENT IN APPROACH OR IN LANGUAGE OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 122358

SOMETHING ELSE?

ANSWER - I THINK PROPERLY THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE ANSWERED EITHER BY THE AMBASSADOR AS TO WHETHER HE FEELS THAT HE IS IN BASIC DISAGREEMENT OR AGREEMENT WITH POLICY ON THIS MATTER.

QUESTION - WELL, DO YOU FEEL HE IS?

ANSWER - WHAT I FEEL ISN'T VERY IMPORTANT.

QUESTION - WHEN AND WHERE IS HE ARRIVING?

ANSWER - HE IS ARRIVING AT 4:15 WASHINGTON TIME AT ANDREWS.

QUESTION - HODDING, I'M STILL HAVING PROBLEMS. HOW DO THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS FIT INTO THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF AMERICAN, CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA OR IN AFRICA GENERALLY?

ANSWER - WELL, THE FRAMEWORK, I THINK, IS CLEAR, WHICH IS THAT WE DO NOT APPROVE THE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.

I THINK HE IS ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT USE THEY MIGHT IN FACT BE USED TO IN ETHIOPIA.

QUESTION - HAVEN'T YOU REALLY SAID THAT YOU WERE OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS?

ANSWER - YES, WE HAVE.

QUESTION - HE IS SAYING THAT HE APPROVES OF THE FOREIGN PRESENCE IF IT MEETS HIS PHILOSOPHICAL GOAL.

ANSWER - WELL, YOU KNOW, A WORD THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DRAW OUT OF THIS IS NOT A WORD THAT HE USED, WHICH IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 STATE 122358

"APPROVED THE PRESENCE." WHAT HE SAID WAS, "I GUESS IF THEY ARE THERE AND THEY DON'T --

QUESTION - HE SAID IT DEPENDS ON THE USE THEY ARE MADE OF. AND THAT INDICATES THAT HE COULD APPROVE OF THEM.

ANSWER - WHAT HE SAID WAS IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THEY ADVISE.

QUESTION - OKAY, BUT THAT MEANS THAT THERE IS AN AREA WHERE HE COULD APPROVE OF THEM.

ANSWER - YES, BUT I REALLY THINK THAT IN TRYING TO DELINEATE WHAT THE AMBASSADOR MEANS IT'S BETTER TO ASK THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH YOU'RE SOON GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DO, AS OPPOSED TO ASKING ME WHO WASN'T THERE AND DON'T REALLY KNOW. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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